



Director of  
Intelligence

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# National Intelligence Daily

*Saturday  
24 February 1979*

DIA and DOS review(s) completed.

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## Briefs and Comments

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The Overnight Reports, printed on yellow paper as the final section of the Daily, will often contain materials that update the Situation Reports and Briefs and Comments.

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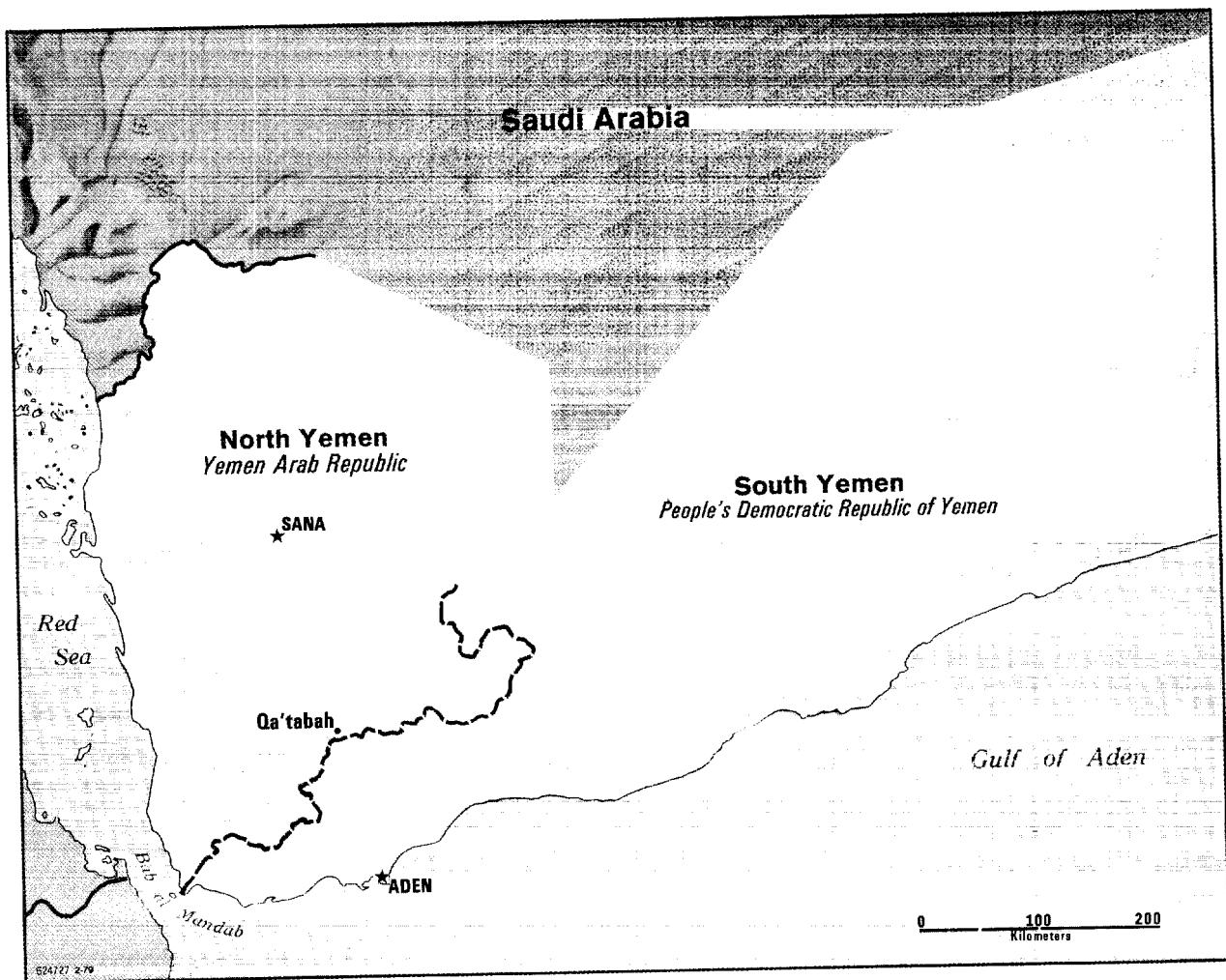
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NORTH YEMEN - SOUTH YEMEN: Renewed Fighting

North Yemeni Foreign Minister Asnaj charges that guerrilla operations supported by South Yemen along the two countries' border have escalated during the past week to the point that some regular armed forces from both sides are involved.

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We cannot confirm this assertion, but several reports--most emanating from North Yemen--indicate that both countries are supporting their dissident forces with artillery and have been flying fighter aircraft in the area.

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[redacted] a North Yemeni fighter aircraft, while flying over the border area, crashed-landed at Sana on Tuesday after being fired on by what was probably an SA-7 surface-to-air missile.

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Asnaj charges that some South Yemeni forces are 20 kilometers inside North Yemen near Qa'tabah and that [redacted] some roads near the border are blocked to allow supplies and reinforcements to move up to the border. The Qa'tabah area was the scene of guerrilla fighting early last month. North Yemen charged at the time that it had been invaded by South Yemeni regular forces but later admitted to having embellished the facts. The latest reports, if true, suggest the scale of fighting along the border may be somewhat more intense than in the immediate past.

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[redacted]  
North Yemen has recently expressed its irritation over Saudi contacts with South Yemen and may use the border attacks to urge the Saudis to cancel the visit of South Yemeni President Abd al Fattah Ismail to Saudi Arabia, now scheduled for early next month. Ambassador Lane has commented that it seems unlikely the PDRY would launch a major attack at a time when they are trying to mend relations with Saudi Arabia.

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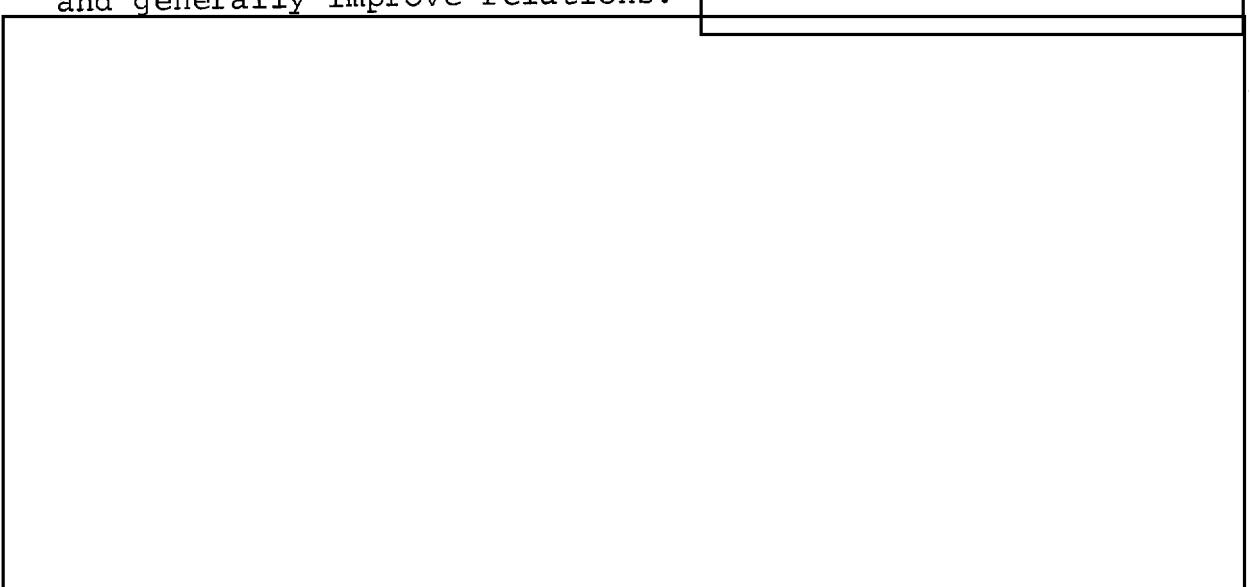


#### OVERNIGHT REPORTS

(The items in the Overnight Reports section have not been coordinated within the intelligence community. They are prepared overnight by the Office of Current Operations with analyst comment where possible from the production offices of NFAC.)

#### Czechoslovakia-US

The US Embassy in Prague reports that since the first of the year the Czechoslovaks have taken a number of small steps to ease bilateral difficulties, especially on economic, consular, and cultural relations. Many of these steps have represented progress on human rights issues. Although Czechoslovakia continues to follow the Soviets' lead on all foreign policy questions, the Embassy believes that Prague is trying to signal a desire to move forward with efforts to resolve longstanding problems and generally improve relations.

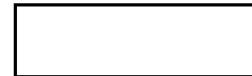


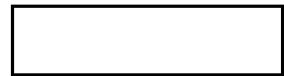
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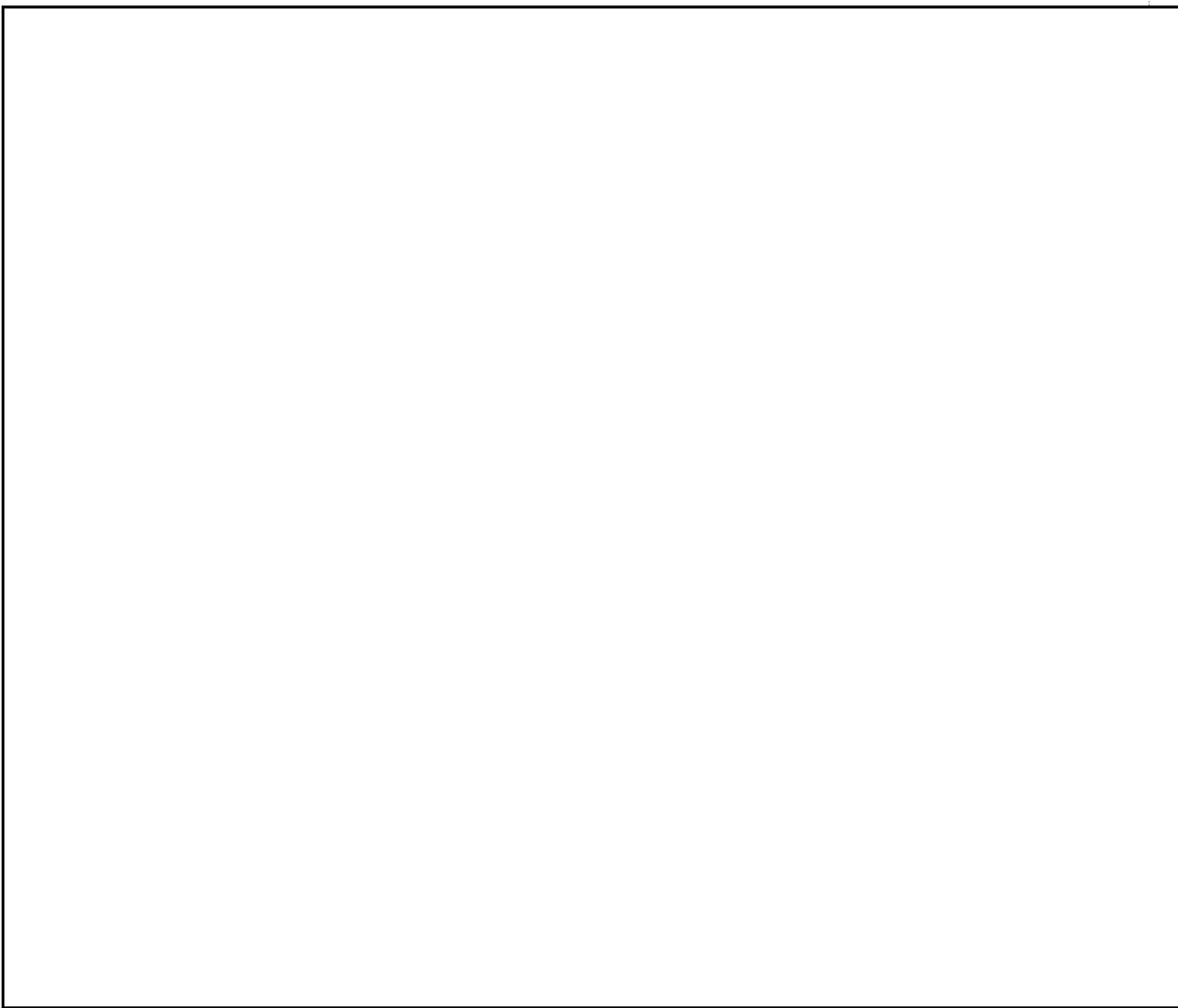
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Iran

At a news briefing today, Deputy Prime Minister Entezam said that Iran would begin exporting oil within the next 15 days. According to Entezam, a report being prepared by the National Iranian Oil Company on the oil fields in southern Iran will determine the exact date and the amount to be exported.

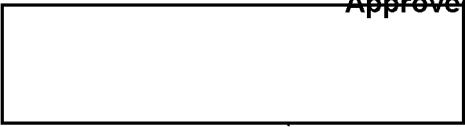
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